

## **Board Report November 8, 2010**

### **Friday's Act 80 Day**

First, this Thursday evening and Friday we will be having parent teacher conferences for grades kindergarten through eight. Elementary and middle school teachers will also be using a small portion of the day to review data from the October 4Sight tests. High school teachers will be engaged in a full day of professional development. Those items will include a focus on assessment, department meetings and a presentation on Gangs and Drugs.

### **Professional Development Professional Learning Community/Book Study**

I would also like to talk to you about our plans to use the additional ½ hour per month grade level/department meetings. Teachers will be engaged in professional readings and discussions depending on their grade level or content area. All activities will tie in directly with our reading and writing focus. This activity is specific to writing, which is a focus on how to use writing to teach content better. Secondary English, math, science, social studies, as well as K – 12 art, music, health and PE, technology education, business, education, and FCS will be working through *Because Writing Matters: Improving Student Writing in Our Schools*. This book is endorsed by the National Writing Project and will set the stage perfectly for some additional professional development happening in the spring. I have included a copy of the introduction for your review.

Grade 2 – 5 teachers will be reading a book specific to conferring called *How's It Going?* by Carl Anderson. The conference session is truly the meat and potatoes of writer's workshop, so it's important that we spend time working to make it better. Critical to conferences with students is the feedback that we can provide students that is specific and individualized. A copy of the introduction is included for your review.

Kindergarten and first grade teachers will be reading a book titled *Engaging Young Writers* written by Matt Glover. This book also addresses writing and writer's workshop with our youngest learners. As teachers of primary learners we want to think and learn about how we support students and engage students in writing. We want to help them generate ideas, share stories, and think of themselves as writers. A copy of the introduction is included for your review.

The guidance department will be reading a book selected by the Jessica Spaide, the department chair. She has selected a book titled, *The Bully, the Bullied, and the Bystander* by Barbara Coloroso.

I have included a copy of the schedule for you. I invite you to join us in any or all of the book studies. You may also choose to follow along on the wiki as we share our thoughts and ideas about the readings on the wiki.